

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The Survey Report for new Broad Gauge rail line from Ashoknagar-Lalitpur-Satna-Khajuraho-Mahoba and Satna-Rewa-Sidhi-Singrauli (627 kms.), has recently been received. The results of the survey are under finalisation in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Further consideration of the project, in consultation with the Planning Commission, would be possible, once the results of the survey are finalised.

[English]

Rural Telecom Network

1136. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for providing rural telecom network during the Eighth Plan and the achievement as on date;

(b) the system being adopted to expedite telephone connection in the rural areas at least in every village/ panchayats; and

(c) the projection made for the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Target in Eighth Plan is to provide 3.38 lakh villages with at least one public telephone by the end of Eighth Plan. The achievement as on 19.11.1996 is 158685 villages.

(b) Presently Analog Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) System has been adopted to provide one telephone in each village. Other new technologies are also likely to come in near future.

(c) It is proposed to cover all the remaining villages in the Ninth Plan.

Daily running of Gondwana Express between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bilaspur

1137. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests have been received to run Gondwana Express daily between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bilaspur; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to start running daily on the above said route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal for daily running of 2409/2410 Nizamuddin-Bilaspur Gondwana Express.

Travelling Concession to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe Students

1138. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SC/ST students are given travelling concession in second class and not in second class sleeper;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Students, including Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students, of educational institutions recognised by Ministry of Education, Government of India or the Education Department of concerned State Government are granted concession in Mail/Express fares of Sleeper Class in addition to Second Class. They can avail of this concession for travel by Sleeper Class for any distance.

[Translation]

Gottwald Crane

1139. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any deal has been finalised by the Government for the purchase of Gottwald Crane of 140 tonnes capacity with Germany; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The tender for procurement of 140 tonnes Accident Relief Cranes is under finalisation.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Thiruvananthapuram as International Airport

1140. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of being declared International Airport, the Thiruvananthapuram Airport lacks facilities of an International Airport;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide all facilities of an International Airport to Thiruvananthapuram Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. Adequate facilities exist for the